

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action transmitted on April 16, 2007 (“the *Office Action*.”) Claims 1-4, 7-17, 20, 23-30, 32-35, 38-41, 43 and 44 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 14-16 are allowed. Claims 17, 20, 23-30, 32-35, 38-41, 43 and 44 are rejected in the *Office Action*. Claim 13 is objected to. Claim 13 has been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 1-4 and 7-16.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to Claim 13 because of informalities. Applicants have amended Claim 13 to address this informality. Favorable action is requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 17, 20, 23-30, 32-35, 38-41, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,532,215 to Muntz, et al. (“*Muntz*”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,909,781 to Itri (“*Itri*”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons described below.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Muntz* nor *Itri* teach the limitation of independent Claim 17 of “terminating the combined channel with a termination circuit, the termination circuit having an impedance and comprising one or more resistors and one or more capacitors.” The *Office Action* states that Figure 8 and column 7, line 60 through column 8, line 8 of *Itri* teaches this limitation. However, this is incorrect. *Itri* discloses an “isolation circuit” that “allows monitoring or testing of the . . . DSL line while maintaining DC isolation from the DSL line.” Column 7, ll. 62-64. The passage of *Itri* merely discloses an isolation circuit, not the termination circuit disclosed in Claim 17. The circuit in *Itri* in no way terminates the DSL line, but rather provides a circuit for testing or monitoring of the DSL line while maintaining direct-current isolation from the line. If *Itri* disclosed a circuit that actually terminated the DSL line as alleged in the *Office Action*, the remainder of the

circuit disclosed in Figure 8 of *Itri* would be rendered moot. As a result, *Itri* does not teach the limitation of Claim 17 “terminating the combined channel with a termination circuit, the termination circuit having an impedance and comprising one or more resistors and one or more capacitors.” For at least this reason, independent Claim 17 is allowable, as are the claims that depend therefrom.

For reasons analogous to those discussed with reference to independent Claim 17, independent Claims 30, 35, 43, and 44 each recite certain limitations that neither *Muntz* nor *Itri* disclose, teach, or suggest. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 30, 35, 43, and 44 together with their dependents.

All of Applicants’ arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, by not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner’s additional statements.

CONCLUSION

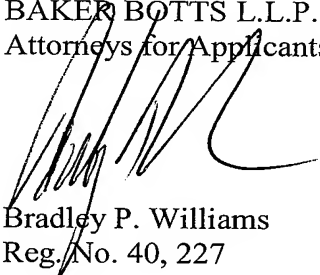
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants.

Applicants believe no fees are due. Nonetheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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